

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 216021 TOSEC 250004

61

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:RPERITO:WLT

APPROVED BY: S/S-O:RPERITO

----- 058120

Z 312115Z AUG 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY FLASH

S E C R E T STATE 216021 TOSEC 250004

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 11703 ACTION SECSTATE TEL AVIV 31 AUG 1976

QUOTE S E C R E T CAIRO 11703

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG PFOR EG IS US

SUBJ: ISRAELI HARASSMENT OF AMOCO IN GULF OF SUEZ

REF: CAIRO 11702

1. I SAW FAHMY HALF HOUR AGO. HE WAS CALM, BUT INSISTENT THAT MARINER SHOULD NOT RPT NOT LEAVE SITE DESPITE ISRAELI ULTIMATUM. SITE IS IN RAMADAN FIELD, WHICH IS EGYPTIAN. AMOCO WAS GRANTED CONCESSION BY GOE, WHICH NOW EXPECTS COMPANY TO FULFILL ITS OBLIGATIONS. HE CONFIRMED GAMASY HAD SENT EGYPTIAN GUNBOATS TO SITE TO PROVIDE PROTECTION. WHEN I MENTIONED AMOCO'S DESIRE TAKE CREW OFF MARINER, FAHMY STRONGLY OBJECTED. THIS WOULD BE PLAYING INTO ISRAELI HANDS. HE POINTED OUT NOT ONLY AMERICANS ARE ABOARD SHIP, BUT ALSO EGYPTIANS. ISRAELIS ARE BLUFFING AND SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO GET AWAY WITH IT.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 216021 TOSEC 250004

FAHMY ALSO KNEW THAT I AM MEETING WITH GAMASY

TOMORROW AND TOLD ME GAMASY WILL WANT TO DISCUSS THE INCIDENT WITH ME.

2. MEANWHILE, EMBOFF MET WITH CRAIG AND SANTA FE MANAGER BARKER. BARKER INFORMED HIM THERE ARE SIXTY-EIGHT CREW MEMBERS ABOARD MARINER, FORTY-EIGHT OF THEM EGYPTIAN AND TWENTY OTHER NATIONALS. BARKER BELIEVES OF THIS LAST NUMBER, ABOUT FIFTEEN MAY BE AMERICANS.

3. ACCORDING BOTH CRAIG AND BARKER, COMMUNICATIONS ARE BAD AND THEY HAVE NO DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS WITH MARINER. INSTEAD, THEY HAVE BEEN COMMUNICATING WITH ANOTHER AMOCO DRILLING RIG IN RAMADHAN FIELD, WHICH IN TURN RELAYS MESSAGES TO MARINER. THEY HAVE HAD NO DIRECT WORD FROM MARINER. BEFORE LEAVING, SKIPPER HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED THAT, IF ISRAELIS ORDERED RIG OUT, HE WAS TO FILE FORMAL PROTEST INDICATING MARINER CONDUCTING LEGAL OPERATIONS, BUT THEN LEAVE. NEITHER CRAIG NOR BARKER KNOW EXACTLY WHAT MARINER SKIPPER IS DOING OR CONTEMPLATES. THE RIG IS UNDER SANTA FE CONTROL. BARKER DID HAVE A MESSAGE, RELAYED THROUGH ANOTHER RIG, THAT CREW AGITATED AND WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE.

4. CRAIG IS TRYING TO SEND WILKIE, GENERAL MANAGER OF GUPCO (JOINT EGYPTIAN/AMOCO OPERATING COMPANY), TO RAS SHUKAIR TONIGHT BY SPECIAL AMOCO AIRCRAFT TO TAKE CHARGE ON THE GROUND. HE DOES NOT KNOW IF GOE WILL GIVE PERMISSION FOR NIGHT-TIME FLIGHT TO RAS SHUKAIR.

5. SINCE WRITING ABOVE (1000 LOCAL), CRAIG SENT WORD THROUGH EMBOFF THAT A MESSAGE HAD JUST BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE MARINER. MARINER'S RADAR HAD PICKED UP WHAT IT BELIEVES TO BE FIVE ISRAELI GUNBOATS STANDING BY ABOUT TWO MILES EAST OF RIG'S POSITION. ABOUT AN HOUR AGO, THEY TURNED ON THEIR LIGHTS BRIEFLY TO SHOW MARINER THEY WERE THERE. SANTA FE MANAGER HAS INSTRUCTED FORMAN ABOARD MARINER THAT HE MUST DECIDE WHETHER CREW STAYS ABOARD OR LEAVES. AS INDICATED EARLIER, TWO WORKBOATS ARE NEARBY AND CRAIG INFORMS THAT A THIRD, NOW IN THE RAMADHAN FIELD, IS PROCEEDING TO THE MARINER. GIVEN AGITATION OF CREW, CRAIG EXPECTS THAT CREW WILL
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 216021 TOSEC 250004

PROBABLY LEAVE IN NEXT COUPLE OF HOURS.

6. CRAIG UNDERTOOK BE IN TOUCH WITH ME, OR IF HE CANNOT GET THROUGH FROM MAADI BY PHONE, WITH EMBOFF TO ADVISE US OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS. CRAIG AGAIN INDICATED THAT EVEN IF CREW LEAVES, MARINER CANNOT POSSIBLY WEIGH ANCHOR IN THE PERIOD STIPULATED BY THE ISRAELIS. HE IS STILL TRYING

TO CONTACT HILAL IN HOPES OF PERSUADING HIM THAT
MARINER MIGHT LEAVE, BUT IS NOT HOPEFUL THAT MINPET
WILL AGREE.

EILTS UNQUOTE ROBINSON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, SHIP HARASSMENT, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE216021
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:RPERITO:WLT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760330-0958
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976081/aaaaaare.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 CAIRO 11702
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI HARASSMENT OF AMOCO IN GULF OF SUEZ
TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, EG, IS, US, AMOCO
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006